

News from Assemblymember ***Joe Coto***

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Monsignor Honored by State Assembly

Sacramento - Monsignor John Sandersfeld, the founding Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in San Jose and long time community activist for the area was presented a resolution on the floor of the California State Assembly by Assemblymember Joe Coto.



The Monsignor was honored for his distinguished religious career and for his role as a social justice and human rights advocate, serving a primarily low-income Latino community. Over the years, he was active in the Civil Rights Movement, the historic Farm Worker Movement, and worked endlessly to stop gang violence in San Jose and create a community where everyone was treated with respect. He was admired by many for his superb ability to forge solutions to the many challenges that a growing multi-ethnic city faces.

“It’s an honor to present Monsignor Sandersfeld with this Resolution commemorating his many achievements and accomplishments upon the announcement of his retirement,” said Coto. “He will definitely be missed. He has worked hard to bring together members of the community in a peaceful manner to work through difficulties and develop policies that provide equality, dignity and respect for all.”

Ned Dolesji, Executive Director of the CA Catholic Conference, was quoted as saying, “Monsignor John Sandersfeld is one of the giants in the struggle for justice for those in need, and has worked to make California the leader in farmworker justice and education opportunities. He continues to inspire those of us who respond to God’s call to work for those in need.”

Deacon Sal Alvarez, a renowned and respected community advocate in San Jose called Monsignor Sandersfeld, “A prophetic voice for justice and equality for East San Jose and a historic figure of the civil rights movement in San Jose and California.”

Monsignor Sandersfeld is retiring as Pastor from Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church after 43 years of service to the Catholic Church.

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